16th March, 1995 and state:

(a) with which country the deal to buy the Advance Jet Trainers has been struck and what is its worth;

(b) whether the I.A.F. is planning to buy the latest MI-172 passenger helicopters from Russian-based Kazan Helicopters Joint Stock Co.; and

(c) if so, the terms negotiated with the Kazan Helicopters whose senior officials were in Indian recently, the mode of payment and other related issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No contract for purchase of AJT has been finalised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

News item on Agni

6361. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Agni in State of suspended animation US" appearing in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated the 11th March, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) It has been reported in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 11 March 1995 that the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of the State had stated before Senate Foreign Relations Sub-committee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs that Agni programme is in a state of 'suspended animation' and the Prithvi programme is still in the user trial stage.

(c) With its three flight tests, the re-entry technology demonstration project Agni has been successfully completed. The Government are examining the situation consequent to the successful test flights of Agni. The users' trials of Prithvi have been concluded. Subsequent activities are being progressed.

Scheme of Tax benefits to help Computer Education

6362. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a scheme of tax benefits to help computer education in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the benefits for companies and individuals who are working on computer LITERACY;

(c) whether any safeguards have been incorporated into this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir. However, in a National level Seminar on "Role of Electronics in Rural and Social Development" held in Goa on 23.4.95, recommendations have been made to adopt, as a policy measure, tax incentives to attract donations for the purpose of promoting computer education in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.